(a) whether Government have drawn up some programme to boost tourism by giving proper encouragement and incentives;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes thereof;

(c) whether the programme is likely to bring in valuable foreign exchange earnings besides generating emplayment avenues for 10 millions people; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The development of tourism by encouraging private sector investment is a continuous process and a number of incentives are presently available for the same. These include tax incentives, interest subsidy, reduced customs duty on import of capital goods, capital subsidy to heritage hotels etc.

(c) and (d) Tourism is already one of the largest foreign exchange earners of the country apart from being employment generator The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during 1993-94 was Rs. 4573 crores The direct employment in the tourism sector during 1992-93 is estimated to be 6.96 million persons

Harassment of lady pilot

329. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a lady pilot in Indian Airlines was harrased by the other male pilot for her refusal to have physical relation with a colleague male pilot;

(b) whether it is also a fact that IA male pilots have issued circular to Association members to bycott flights with the lady pilot in question; and

(c) what measures Government proposes to protect the lady pilots in the services?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

Concession on air fare

330. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that concession has been granted for the air fare on the selected routes; if so, the details thereof;

(b) what are the reasons for not granting concession on other routes;

(c) whether Government would allow the Air taxi operators to grant such concession; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have prevented Air taxi operators for introducing passengers comfart such as providing free drinks etc.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines has offered 25 per cent concession on return journey fares for a limited period on the following routes:—

(i) Bombay-Delhi-Bomboy or vice versa (valid from 1-8-94 to 31-10-94).

(ii) Bombay - Bangalore - Bombay or vice versa (valid from 1.8.94 to 31.10.94).

(iii) Bombay - Calcutta - Bombay or vice versa (valid from 1.8.94 to 31.12.94).

(iv) Bombay - Madras - Bombay or vice versa (valid from 22.8.94 to 31.10.94).

(v) Bombay - Coimbatore - Bombay or vice versa (valid from 1.12.94 to 28.2.95)

(b) The concession is being offered only for the return journey leg on these routes on marketing considerations.

(c) Air Taxi Operators are free to charge any fares.

(d) No, Sir. However, Government have issued directions that no operator operating domestic air transport services in India shall serve any alcoholic drink on board and nor will any passenger consume any alcoholic drink while on board.

Construction of International Airport at Sindhudurg in Maharashtra

331. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms for construction of an International Airport;

(b) the number of International Airports laid by Goverment during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether Government have a proposal to construct an International Airport in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The norms are governed by the density of traffic, availability of land and other infrastructure to sustain the international operations.

(b) At present, there are 5 international airports. No airport has been declared as international airport in the VIIIth Plan so far.

(c) Government is considering an alternate airport to Naval airfield in Goa to sustain International operations within and close to Goa. Sites in Sindhudurg district, adjoining Goa, are being considered.

Chartered Flight for wedding

332. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has adequate fleet of aircraft to cope-up with passengers bookings;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Air India's Aircraft have been chartered for wedding reception; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the wedding Chartered Flight was approved on consideration of incurring loss of revenue vis-a-vis the regular passenger traffic?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Air India's existing fleet of aircraft is adequate to meet the current schedule of operations.

(b) and (c) An Air India aircraft was recently chartered for a marriage ceremony. The charter did not affect any scheduled operation of Air India.

Supply of Electrical Goods to ITDC Hotels

333. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how much electrical goods and other items were supplied to ITDC Hotels by Sharat Electrocrafts Delhi during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) whether any goods were found sub-standard; and